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SIMMONS SECURES FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS; EDUCATION

Windham, Mystic and UCONN Projects Marked For Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today announced that H.R. 5672, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007, includes funding for first responder communications in Windham, an after-school program at the Mystic Aquarium and a research project at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). The bipartisan bill passed the House of Representatives today by a vote of 393 to 23.

"From public safety to education, this spending bill provides critical funding for important programs in Windham and Mystic and at UCONN," Simmons said. "I am proud the House overwhelmingly endorsed these three projects."

The bill included the following projects, which were requested by Simmons and are marked for funding in the final bill:

- Town of Windham to receive funds to upgrade its 9-11 dispatch center. Simmons requested \$350,000 for the project.
- Sea Research Foundation at the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration to receive funds for its *Immersion Presents* at-risk children after-school program. Simmons requested \$1.5 million for this program.
- UCONN to receive funds to establish a national DNA and fingerprint identifications partnership. Simmons requested \$3.2 million for the program.

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